

ACCESS

Jan. 26, 2021 3:08 pm

ACHIEVEability's TechUp program will help West Philadelphians hone their Salesforce skills

The TechUp program from ACHIEVEability will work to help people with less resilient or no employment develop Salesforce skills.



By [Michael Butler](#) / STAFF



(Photo by Flickr user [Vernon Chan](#), under a Creative Commons license)

BROKE IN PHILLY

Technical.ly is one of 20+ news organizations producing [Broke in Philly](#), a collaborative reporting project on solutions to poverty and the city's push toward economic justice.

Update: Those interested in the TechUp program can indicate their interest via [this form](#). A tweet with details has been added to this story. (2/8/21, 3:08 p.m.)

ACHIEVEability is offering a new, paid skills-building opportunity to West Philadelphians who are interested in information technology careers.

Beginning in April 2021 and in partnership with professional organization **Project Realign**, the nonprofit's **TechUp** program will train high school graduates who are underemployed or unemployed in [in-demand Salesforce skills](#).

ACHIEVEability Executive Director **Jamila Harris-Morrison** believes the program will provide tech job prep and access to communities of color in need, especially.

“TechUp is a unique opportunity for jobseekers to obtain industry and technology skills, as well as hands-on training experience,” she said in a statement. “This training program

will provide communities of color access to high-wage job opportunities with the necessary skills and experience to obtain employment in the growing business technology sector.”

For the first TechUp cohort, 15 Philadelphia residents will meet 30 hours a week, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m for in-person and online classes. They will be paid a \$15-per-hour stipend for their work, as well as receive the hardware required to access both in-person and remote training sessions. After their training, jobseekers will receive an interactive internship designed to improve their chances of competing in the job market. TechUp will also pay for participants to take the Salesforce Administration exam. After the program ends, the nonprofit will provide participants with ongoing professional coaching.

Through this program, ACHIEVEability aims to create a model that can be used to provide other opportunities in the tech sector to people from underserved communities, with an aim to both diversify the local tech industry and disrupt the cycle of low-wage work in West Philadelphia.

Life Sciences Cares Philadelphia has donated \$25,000 and individual donors have donated a combined \$25,000 to support the program.

To apply, those interested must pass a **Microsoft Proficiency Assessment**.

ACHIEVEability will host online information sessions about the program on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 2 p.m.; and Thursday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. For more info about TechUp or ACHIEVEability’s many other WorkSmart West Philly services, contact **Renee Settles-Bean** at rbean@achieve-ability.org or 484-469-0883 before Feb. 15.

Michael Butler is a 2020-2021 corps member for Report for America, an initiative of The Groundtruth Project that pairs young journalists with local newsrooms. This position is supported by the Lenfest Institute for Journalism.

Companies: [Salesforce](#)

Projects: [Broke in Philly](#)

Series: [Broke in Philly](#)